EU for dismantling the quantitative import restrictions

3103. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union and other developed countries have been pressing India to dismantle the quantitative import restrictions on various items especially the agricultural products under WTO regime;

(b) whether the demand was reiterated in recent bilateral consultation with Brussels;

(c) if so, the specific demands made at Brussels, item-wise; and

(d) the Government's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) On 23rd December, 2002 the European Communities (EC) requested consultations with India under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organization regarding import restrictions maintained by India under Articles XX and XXI of GATT 1994 on more than 100 products, including certain agricultural products, under its Export and Import Policy, 2002-07. India and the European Communities have held consultations in this case on 17th February, 2003 under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO.

(d) The quantitative import restrictions are imposed under Articles XX, XXI of GATT 1994. However, as part of the annual review under the Exim Policy and in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments, the Director General of Foreign Trade has, through Notification No. 02/(RE 2003)/2002-2007 dated 31st March, 2003, amended the conditions relating to the policy regarding import of 69 products which includes certain items in EC's consultation request in this case.

Impact of dumping on domestic market

3104. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the measures taken by Government to reduce the impact of dumped standard and sub-standard cheap foreign products on domestic industrial and agricultural goods in Indian markets;

(b) the names of all the products imported which is subject to their compliance with the Indian Quality Standards;

(c) the names of all the imported items on which Quantitative Restrictions are being applied/proposed to be applied; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to put an end to dumping of both standard and sub-standard foreign products in Indian markets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (d) The purpose of anit-dumpig duty is to counteract trade distortions caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry. Since 1992, the DGAD has till date initiated anti-dumping investigation into import of 153 products involving number of countries. The status of these cases is given below :-

Number of cases where final findings have been issued	117
Number of cases where preliminary findings have been issued	19
Number of cases under investigation for preliminary findings	11
Number of cases initiated but closed	6
TOTAL :	153

Import of 159 items as listed in Appendix-III of Schedule-I, Import of ITC (HS) (2002-07 as amended from time to time) has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian Quality Standards which are also applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of these requirements, all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India are required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Quantitative Restrictions on imports have been removed in phase-wise manner by India as a part of Government's economic liberalization programme and its internat*ional commitments. The details thereof are published in the publication* viz. ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items, copies of which are available in the Library of the Parliament.

Setting up of green field SEZs

3105. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prestigious project to set up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as engines of export growth in the medium term has failed to take off as, reportedly, not even a single greenfield SEZ has been launched during the last two years when the scheme was announced;